

Sampling of Received Ideas and Comments

Dialogue 3 - Strategies for Sustainable Institute Operations

1. How should initial funding co-investments of the Federal Government and others be organized by types and proportions?

Responses

- ◆ Invest in capital expenditures, especially allowing a portion for equipment
- ◆ Invest in staffing the Institutes, specifically to hire people who will go into the field to gauge the needs of industry and build interest
- ◆ Leverage existing resources including infrastructure, equipment, and buildings
- ◆ Industry and government should have equal cost shares for funding (50/50 funding)
- ◆ Institutes should be initially federally funded then transition to private funding
- ◆ Fund projects that can demonstrate early successes which can lead to further collaboration and increases in private funding
- ◆ Federal funding should be used to set up Institute organization and infrastructure, including personnel, facilities, equipment, and leadership staff

2. What arrangements for co-investment proportions and types could help an Institute become self-sustainable?

Responses

- ◆ Gradually decrease federal funding and increase non-federal funding over time, possibly through a five year plan. This allows SMEs to join activities with an incentive to contribute later
- ◆ Fee for services such as prototyping or contract R&D and where industries can purchase capability for specific applications or licenses
- ◆ Conduct projects and research that add value for stakeholders and customers by being relevant to market and industry needs, resolving immediate to mid-term problems, and applicable to multiple manufacturing sectors. This will help attract alternative funding as companies will see the value in the Institute
- ◆ Collect membership fees
- ◆ Fees from licensing IP in the form of new technologies, products, and processes
- ◆ Provide training and/or certification in emerging processes for private sector

3. What measures could assess progress of an Institute towards being self-sustainable?

Responses

- ◆ Number of members including the types of members as well as those that are new or sustaining
- ◆ Growth in non-federal funds from outside sources including the private sector, project fees, membership dues, and corporate investment, and how the funding proportions change over time
- ◆ Meeting milestones that are established through a comprehensive business plan. The business plan will outline goals and outcomes for the program and include tracking of traditional milestone, budget, and schedule metrics
- ◆ Willingness of industry to self-fund the Institute through a transition over time from government funding to fee for services and industry dues and investment
- ◆ Number or total amount of private/public investments and contributions attracted and whether there is continued investment from companies
- ◆ IP portfolio including the total number of patents and other development and licensing of IP
- ◆ Increase in domestic manufacturing jobs and payroll as well as workforce development numbers and job placement

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4. What actions or conditions could improve how Institute operations support for domestic manufacturing facilities while maintaining consistency with our international obligations?

Responses

- ◆ Support the supply chain including SMEs and parts manufacturers
- ◆ Protect IP rights through strong IP and licensing agreements or by limiting generated IP to U.S. companies
- ◆ Focus on domestic manufacturing by allowing international participation but with IP restrictions or encouraging international collaborators to locate domestically with tax credits for domestic capital equipment and facilities
- ◆ Invest in manufacturing education to strengthen technical workforce and improve the quality of U.S. manpower and encourage the participation of domestic students
- ◆ Be cost effective to compete with lower cost labor markets and remain globally competitive

5. How should Institutes engage other manufacturing related programs and networks?

Responses

- ◆ Through regular interactions including workshops, conferences, monthly meetings, yearly summits, or technical symposiums to exchange ideas and best practices
- ◆ Continually engage through a virtual environment such as a website, virtual collaboration platform (e.g., TelePresence), Wiki or blog with periodic reports to provide activities and progress
- ◆ Add representation from other manufacturing programs to the board of NNMI and encourage cross participation of board members
- ◆ Collaborate based on needs and mutual benefits and include other programs with a related vision and mission
- ◆ Exchange technical staff and other personnel including researchers
- ◆ Leverage the success and existing capabilities, resources, and infrastructure of these other programs

6. How should Institutes interact with state and local economic development authorities?

Responses

- ◆ Engage economic development authorities as a partner of the Institute or network to encourage cooperation and work towards business development. Collaboration can include sharing facilities, guidance, or resources
- ◆ Be able to attract funding from state and local economic development authorities
- ◆ Include state and local economic development authorities in Institute governance through board memberships or create an economic development advisory group to amplify and leverage federal funding

7. What measures could assess Institutes contributions to long term national security and competitiveness?

Responses

- ◆ Metrics on domestic manufacturing jobs created and saved
- ◆ Number of products and processes derived from the Institute that have been commercialized and purchased by manufacturers
- ◆ Ability to continuously innovate to maintain security and competitiveness and lead in keystone technologies
- ◆ Increase in the manufacturing section of the U.S. balance of trade
- ◆ IP developed including the number of patent applications and patents granted